

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are set forth below in the following Listing of Claims, and have been amended as noted:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-57 (Canceled)

58) (Previously Presented) An apparatus to traverse a seabed topographic feature, comprising:

a subsea pipeline constructed to carry fluids from a first location across the topographic feature to a second location; wherein:

the topographic feature is selected from the group consisting of subsea basins, domes, valleys, cliffs, canyons, escarpments and combinations thereof;

said pipeline comprising at least one distributed buoyancy region;

said pipeline comprising a first unbuoyed pipeline section extending from said first location on a sea floor to said distributed buoyancy region and a second unbuoyed pipeline section extending from said distributed buoyancy region to said second location on a sea floor; and

said distributed buoyancy region comprising two or more spatially arranged discrete buoyancy solutions directly attached to said distributed buoyancy region to create a positively buoyant inverse catenary section connecting said first and said second pipeline sections in fluid communication; and

a first flexure control device at said first location to reduce bending stress and strain in said first unbuoyed pipeline section.

- 59) (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the buoyancy solution comprises one or more buoyancy-providing modules disposed along a length of said pipeline.
- 60) (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the buoyancy solution comprises a continuous coating of buoyant material.
- 61) (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 58 further comprising a tether system to retain said pipeline in position and to resist forces of undersea currents.
- 62) (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said first and said second pipeline sections are negatively buoyant.
- 63) (Canceled)
- 64) (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said first flexure control device is located proximate to a cliff edge of the topographic feature.
- 65) (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 58 wherein said first flexure control device is located distant to a cliff edge of the topographic feature.

Claims 66-72 (Canceled)

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added with these amendments.